

## Monsoon Season Safety Tips

Monsoon Season will be upon us shortly and Sheriff John R. Armer would like to offer you the following information to help keep you and your families' safe during these storms.

A Monsoon is caused by a combination of heat and moisture. Arizona is in "Monsoon Season" when there are more than three consecutive days with dew points above 55°. Arizona averages over 50 monsoon days each year and normally occur in July and August.

Monsoon storms can range from minor dust storms to violent thunderstorms carrying heavy winds, dry lightening and/or high volume rain. These storms can cause flash floods that are potentially deadly.

If you are caught outdoors during a monsoon storm here are some safety tips:

- Take signs that read "DO NOT ENTER WHEN FLOODED" seriously. All caution signs should be observed and respected. Even if water is rushing across the road or wash looks shallow, it may be very well so deep that even high clearance vehicle will get stuck or washed down stream requiring emergency intervention.
- If driving, slow down and never use your cruise control during a rainstorm. If your vehicle hydroplanes, the cruise control may try to accelerate while the vehicle has uneven traction causing you to lose control.
- To avoid being struck by lightening stay away from open fields, high land, trees, poles, other tall objects and standing bodies of water, including swimming pools. Stay in your home or vehicle if possible.
- Do not huddle closely together with other people spread out.

The Gila County Sheriff's Office hopes that you have a safe summer and that these tips will help you through our upcoming Monsoon Season. For any questions or further information please contact the Gila County Sheriff's Office at (928) 474-0728 or (928) 425-4449.